

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node,
2 comprising:

3 generating a message to said network node by a client application executing on a digital
4 multimedia device, said message containing at least one of a multidimensional pointer to a
5 depository of digital multimedia content associated with said network node and a timing
6 parameter operable to indicate when said message is to take effect; and

7 transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by said network
8 node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said
9 transferring commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

1 2. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein said message generated by said client application comprises a Real-
3 Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY message that includes said
4 multidimensional pointer in a range header of said message.

1 3. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein said depository of digital multimedia content is organized into a
3 nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective media
4 identifier dimensions of said multidimensional pointer.

1 4. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 3, wherein a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content
3 comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator.

1 5. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 4, wherein said at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media
3 clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset
4 within said media clip.

1 6. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device accesses said network node over at
3 least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a cable network.

1 7. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital
3 music players, digital video players, computers and handheld communication devices enabled
4 to accept streaming media.

1 8. The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein said timing parameter is used to identify when said message is to be
3 satisfied by said network node and is operable to assume a value selected from the group
4 consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

1 9. A system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node,
2 comprising:

3 means associated with a client application executing on a digital multimedia device for
4 generating a message to said network node, said message containing at least one of a
5 multidimensional pointer to a depository of digital multimedia content associated with said
6 network node and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said message is to take effect;
7 and

8 means for transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by
9 said network node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer,
10 said transferring commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

1 10. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein said message generated by said client application comprises a Real-
3 Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY message that includes said
4 multidimensional pointer in a range header of said message.

1 11. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein said depository of digital multimedia content is organized into a
3 nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective media
4 identifier dimensions of said multidimensional pointer.

1 12. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 11, wherein a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content
3 comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator.

1 13. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 12, wherein said at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media
3 clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset
4 within said media clip.

1 14. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device is operable to access said network
3 node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a cable network.

1 15. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital
3 music players, digital video players, computers and handheld communication devices enabled
4 to accept streaming media.

1 16. The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein said timing parameter is used to identify when said message is to be
3 satisfied by said network node and is operable to assume a value selected from the group
4 consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

1 17. A digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from
2 a network node, comprising:

3 logic for generating a message to said network node by a client application executing on
4 said digital multimedia device, said message containing at least one of a multidimensional
5 pointer to a depository of digital multimedia content associated with said network node and a
6 timing parameter operable to indicate when said message is to take effect; and

7 a player engine operable to play back streaming content from a particular content source
8 identified by said multidimensional pointer, said streaming content commencing at a time
9 indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

1 18. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said message comprises a Real-Time
3 Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY message that includes said
4 multidimensional pointer in a range header of said message.

1 19. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said multidimensional pointer includes a
3 plurality of media identifier dimensions that correspond to a plurality of nested hierarchical
4 levels into which said depository of digital multimedia content is organized.

1 20. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 19, wherein a first level of said plurality of media
3 identifier dimensions comprises a uniform resource locator identifying a server-side playlist.

1 21. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 20, wherein a second level of said plurality of media
3 identifier dimensions comprises at least one of a media source identifier for identifying a
4 particular media clip within said server-side playlist and another server-side playlist identifier.

1 22. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 21, wherein said multidimensional pointer includes a
3 relative time offset within said particular media clip.

1 23. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for accessing said network
3 node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a cable network.

1 24. The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content
2 from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said timing parameter is used to identify
3 when said message is to be satisfied by said network node and is operable to assume a value
4 selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.